

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 71708

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : STURM
Serial No : 10/533,263
Confirm. No : 7345
Filed : May 10, 2005
For : CLAMPING MEANS
Art Unit : 1725
Examiner : KERNS, KEVIN P
Dated : September 27, 2007

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT UNDER PCT RULE 13.1

Applicant hereby elects Group I directed to claims 1-20, drawn to a clamping device (embodiment of Figures 1-10 and 13-20). It is Applicant's position that claim 1 is generic. However, Applicant respectfully traverses the requirement as the standard is whether the claims are directed to a single inventive concept and not whether claim 21 requires the technical features of claims 1-20. Claims 1-20 and 21 are very similar to one another. Claim 21 describes a machining system that uses a clamping means according to claims 1-20. Claim 21 is an application of the clamping means featured in claims 1-20. As such, it is Applicant's position that claims 1-21 are connected to one another by a uniform inventive idea.

Favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,



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71708-10

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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-
0410.